



## Now 3 ways to get FREE tutoring

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The Learning Center (LC) is excited about offering three ways for Blinn students to get free tutoring for Spring 2007: drop-in-tutoring (DIT), tutoring by appointment (TBA), and group tutoring sessions (GTS). The LC staff will not be teaching or reviewing the material for the course. Make sure to tell your students to bring their textbook and notes, along with the questions they have.



### **DIT Drop-In Tutoring**

Drop In Tutoring at the Learning Center offers everyone a chance to come by for free tutoring. The tutoring session is usually 10 to 15 minutes in length and is on a first come, first served basis. The LC offers Drop In Tutoring in the following subjects:

Accounting  
Biology  
Chemistry  
French & Spanish  
Geology & Physics  
Math

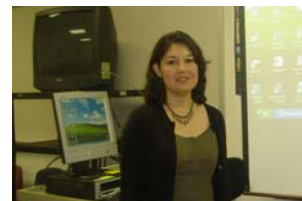
COSC 1301, C++, and Java



### **TBA Tutoring by Appointment**

The tutoring by appointment sessions will be one-on-one with the tutor for 30 minutes. The LC offers the following subjects for Tutoring by Appointment.

Accounting  
Biology & Chemistry  
French  
Math & Physics



### **GTS Group Tutoring Session**

The Learning Center conducts one hour, group tutoring sessions for up to 10 students in certain courses.

For details on these new sessions, see our feature story on page 4 of this newsletter.

### **20 Years Ago**

The enrollment for Blinn College Spring Semester 1987: 4,293 students.

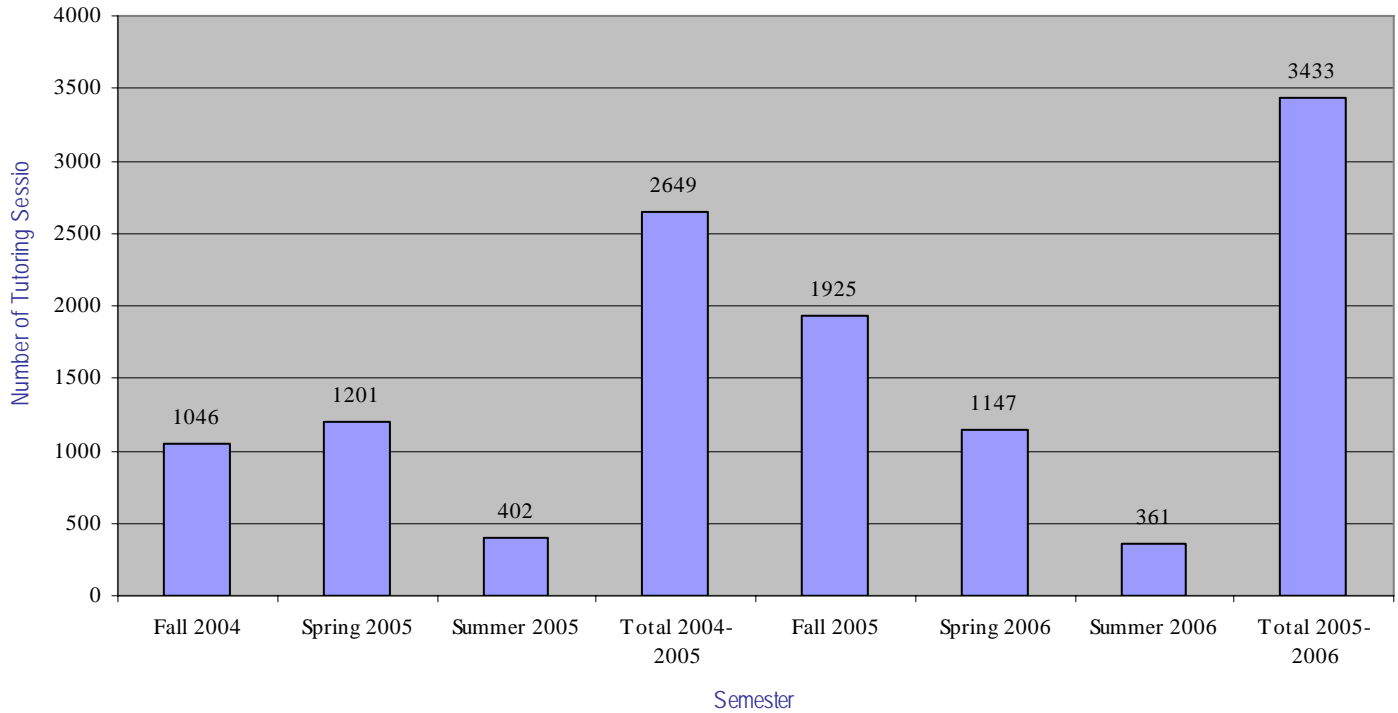
### Learning Center Mission Statement:

The Learning Center exists to help others become independent learners and to help them achieve academic success.

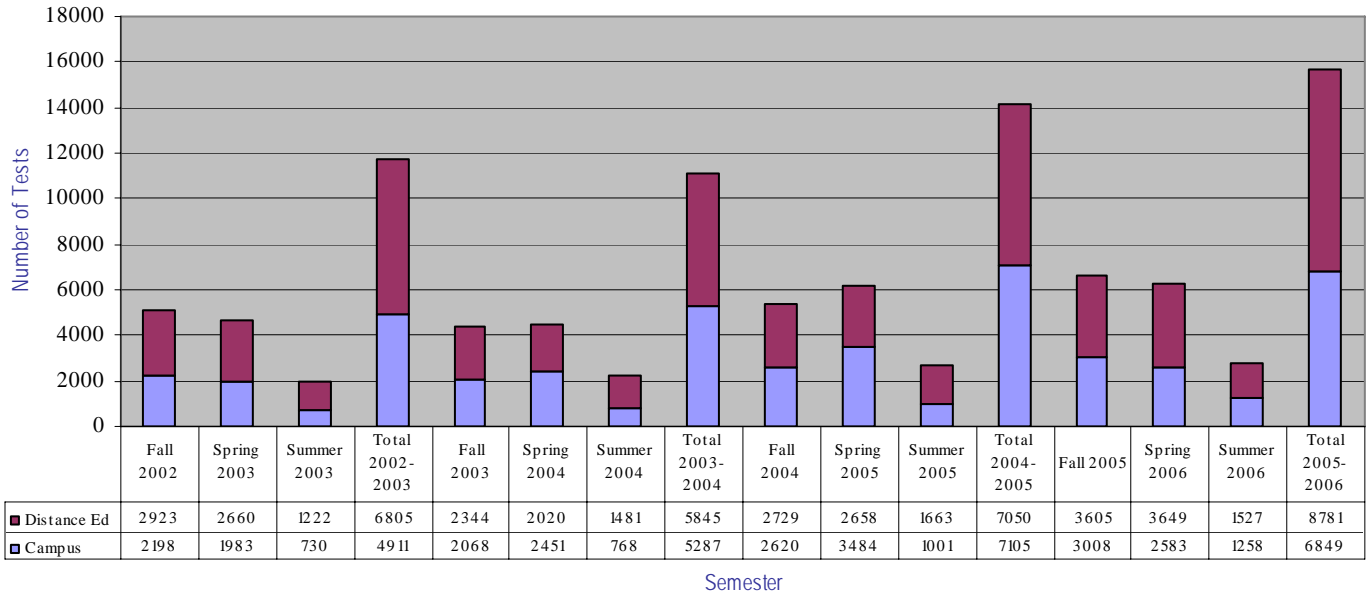
**"Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm."** -Samuel Taylor Coleridge

# Blinn College Learning Center, Bryan Campus Data

Tutoring Summary  
Fall 2004 - Summer 2006



Testing Fall 2002 - Summer 2006  
Academic Year View



**"Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."** -Helen Keller



The Learning Center has over 80 online computers with Microsoft Office, Maple, and course software. This service is free to all students, faculty, and staff. Students, faculty and staff can print as well at the Learning Center. Students receive \$15.00 from their tuition for printing and faculty/staff are allowed to spend up to \$150.00

**"Personally, I am always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."**

- Winston Churchill

## **Kathleen Weber Tutoring Cyclist**

by Kelly Reyna, LCA

For a student needing help in computer science, math, or business classes, Kathleen Weber may be the answer to his/her problems. Kathleen is a computer science major with a math and business minor at Texas A&M, where she also participates in the A&M Cycling Sports Club. Mountain biking is a hobby that Kathleen and her family have enjoyed since they lived in California. When Kathleen was 10, she moved to Sugarland, Texas, and later attended high school in College Station. Upon graduating, Kathleen enrolled in Blinn College as an Information Management major. Kathleen began tutoring at the Learning Center in Spring

2003. During her time at Blinn, Kathleen demonstrated that she was a great student and exemplary tutor. Her success is a result of her superior knowledge of the subject and true love for the job. She enjoys meeting new students and helping them realize that they can achieve academic success on their own. By guiding the student in the right direction and giving them sound advice, Kathleen demonstrates true mentorship. Although she is often challenged by the rigorous demands of school, work, and cycling, she always finds the time to provide quality tutoring to students in need.



Kathleen is climbing a mountain at the 2006 Collegiate Mountainbike National Championships in Angel Fire, New Mexico



Kathleen (right) often races with her sister, Deanna (left). Their love for cycling is evident by the weather conditions they must endure. The photo at right sums it all up.....

**"Do one thing every day that scares you."** -Eleanor Roosevelt

## Group Tutoring Sessions (GTS) to the Rescue

by Kay Bush, LCA

Research supports the positive effects that collaborative learning has on today's community-college students. Professors are introducing group projects and group discussions in the classroom. However, within the timeframe to cover the required curriculum for a course, professors are limited to the amount of engagement that can take place in the classroom. One of the most beneficial collaborative forms of learning is the outside study group. Average exam scores are generally higher for students who study in groups, regardless of the teaching style of the professor (Sokolove & Marbach-Ad, 1999). Since study groups are possible for the majority of community college courses, this collaborative system should be used more often at the community college level.

In hopes of increasing the number of study groups at Blinn College, the Learning Center (LC) on the Bryan campus is conducting group tutoring sessions (GTS) for core subjects that are normally part of the drop-in-tutoring already

in place. Learning Center Assistants (LCAs) will be the tutors for the hour long study groups with a size limit of 10 students. The LCAs will encourage the students to continue the study group outside of the scheduled group session with added pointers and tips for conducting successful study sessions. The LCAs are there to act as a tutor for the group, not to review or teach the material of the course. The study groups will be encouraged to bring questions they have gathered to the LC session.

Below is a list of the GTS offered at the Learning Center for the spring 2007 semester:

**Accounting 2301**

**Biology 1406 & 1407**

**Chemistry 1411**

**Chemistry 1412**

**Math 1324**

**Math 0312 and Math 1314**

**Math 1325 & Math 2414**

Brochures are available in PDF format on the Bryan Learning Center website detailing the GTS and other tutoring programs available. Bro-

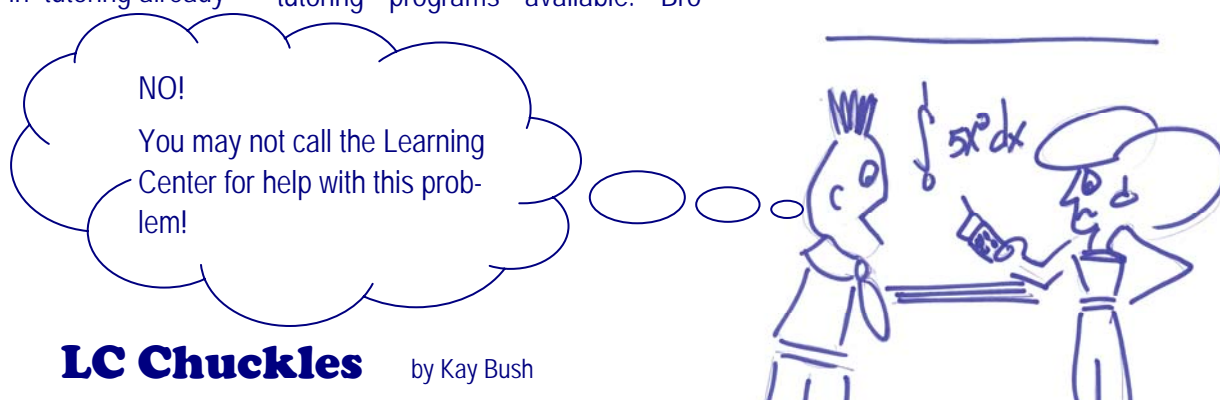


Average exam scores are generally higher for students who study in groups.

chures are also available at the Learning Center, the PASS Center, and the Counseling Offices on the Bryan campus. Schedules for group tutoring sessions are available at the Learning Center and on our website at:

[www.blinn.edu/labs/bryan/index.htm](http://www.blinn.edu/labs/bryan/index.htm)

Sokolove, Phillip G. & Marbach-Ad, Gili (1999). The benefits of out-of-class group study for improving student performance on exams: a comparison of outcomes in active-learning and traditional college biology classes. *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, 10(3), 18.



**LC Chuckles** by Kay Bush

**"If you're enthusiastic about the things you're working on, people will come ask you to do interesting things."** —James Woolsey, former CIA director

## What is a Cognitive Disability?

by Kay Bush, LCA

Look at the letters below and see if you are able to read the phrase:

Tob eornot obe.

Need help? Now make a mental picture of William Shakespeare and rethink the phrase above. There are students that see letters and words in classroom Power Points and textbooks like the jumbled phrase above. All educators have encountered students who seem to take a long time to, or may never, grasp the material. These students may have a cognitive disability, which in broad terms means that the student has greater difficulty with one or more types of mental tasks than the average person. Since there are many reasons for someone having a cognitive disability, educators need to address the functional aspects of the disability. The Center for Persons with Disabilities and Utah State University provide a list of functional cognitive disabilities, which include deficits or difficulties with:

- Memory
- Problem-solving
- Attention
- Reading, Linguistic, and Verbal Comprehension
- Math Comprehension
- Visual Comprehension<sup>1</sup>

The listed deficits or difficulties may range considerably in severity, with some students not even knowing they have such a disorder. The Learning Center staff on the Bryan Campus will be undergoing training for how to recognize and help students with cognitive disabilities during the Spring 2007 semester. The Learning Center would like to encourage all faculty and staff to research this topic further for the sake of our students struggling with cognitive difficulties. The Blinn College Office of Disability Services serves students needing special support services and may be able to answer questions you have about cognitive disabilities.

"We are what we repeatedly do, Excellence, then is not an act but a habit." - Aristotle



**Cognitive disability**— a student has greater difficulty with one or more types of mental tasks than the average person.

### In the United States:

6.2—7.5 million individuals have a cognitive disability

125,000 children are born with a cognitive disability each year

1 out of every 10 Americans has a family member with a cognitive disability

### Cognitive disabilities are:

7 times more prevalent than deafness

10 times more prevalent than cerebral palsy

25 times more prevalent than blindness

35 times more prevalent than muscular dystrophy<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup><http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/general>

"You are the storyteller of your own life, and you can create your own legend or not." —Isabel Allende



Joey Bruns “reflecting” while touring Europe. Joey spent a year in France studying the French language so that he could acquire a double major.

# A former student and LC tutor heading for success..... Joey Bruns

by Kay Bush, LCA

So what ever happens to our students once they leave our campus? Many transfer to A&M and then on to successful jobs and careers.

One of our success stories is Joey Bruns. Joey is a former student of Blinn and became a math and French tutor for the Learning Center in January of 2002. Joey graduated last December from Texas A&M with a BS in mathematics and a BA in French. The double major came after receiving a Study Abroad Fellowship and the International Fee Scholarship. This allowed him to study French for a year in France. He can also

boast that he is a licensed pilot!

Joey just recently accepted a position with an oil exploration company, WesternGeco, in Houston, Texas. The company has offices all over the world, one of which is in France. He will be in the Houston office, which is close to his hometown of Victoria, Texas. Joey is now in Norway for an eight week training course.

Even though we miss him dearly at the Learning Center, we wish Joey all the best as he heads for success!

“Never doubt that a small group of people can cange the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” -Margaret Mead

## BLINN COLLEGE LEARNING CENTER NEWLETTER

Bryan Campus



*Creating independent learners for academic success*

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FALL & SPRING  
Monday—Thursday  
7:45am—9:30 pm  
Friday:  
7:45am—5:00pm  
Sunday:  
5:30pm—9:30pm

SUMMER I & II  
Monday—Thursday  
7:30am—9:30pm  
Friday:  
7:30am—Noon  
Sunday:  
5:30pm—9:30pm